



For more information, please contact:

[Robert Coombs](#)

Director of Public Affairs
California Coalition Against Sexual Assault
916-446-2520 X 325
916-743-6069 (mobile)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sexual Assault Coalition Celebrates Assemblyman Leno's Work

Legislator Named "Extraordinary Activist" on Behalf of Victims

(June 13, 2007) Sacramento—

The California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA) announced today the recipient of the 2006 Extraordinary Activist Award, given to an individual who stands up and speaks out on behalf of victims of sexual violence. Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) received the award in part due to his previous service as Chair of the Assembly Public Safety Committee.

Leno co-hosted a Joint Public Safety Committee informational hearing on Proposition 83 in which CALCASA Executive Director Suzanne Brown-McBride was invited to testify. Regarding Leno's commitment to hosting the hearing, Brown-McBride says "It's very important when victims groups have people who are thoughtful on this issue, even in the face of criticism. Mr. Leno is committed to public safety and has been very open to us as a coalition of rape crisis centers, advocates and victims."



Early in 2006, Leno also proposed one of the most comprehensive sex offender management bills to date in AB 50. Though much of the content of the bill would go on to be taken up in other legislation (SB 1128-Alquist), Leno's authorship and subsequent leadership was a significant boost to the voice of advocates, who worked tirelessly to dispel myths and promote evidence based best practices. Says Robert Coombs, Director of Public Affairs for CALCASA: "Mr. Leno was a great supporter of our sex offender management policy work and we look forward to ongoing collaborations in an effort to end sexual violence."

CALCASA is a statewide organization in California working to end sexual violence. CALCASA's membership is the sixty-six rape crisis centers throughout California, Campus-based rape prevention programs, and allied organizations and individuals sharing the mission to end sexual violence. View our website at CALCASAPublicPolicy.org.

###